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Letter dated 18 January 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to submit the assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Qatar in December 2006 (see annex). This assessment was prepared under my responsibility following consultations with other Council members.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nassir Abdulaziz **Al-Nasser**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

07-21465 (E) 060207

Annex to the letter dated 18 January 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Qatar (December 2006)

Introduction

Under the presidency of Qatar in December 2006, the Security Council engaged in an extensive programme of work addressing a wide range of issues on its agenda. During that month, the Council held 40 meetings, including six debates, one open debate, one private debate, four briefings and four meetings with troop-contributing countries. In addition, the Council held consultations of the whole on 23 separate occasions. The Council, in the busiest month of the year, adopted 14 resolutions and produced 11 presidential statements and one note by the President. The President also made seven statements to the press on behalf of the Council. A table of the actions taken by the Council during the presidency of Qatar is attached to the present assessment.

One of the resolutions was adopted by acclamation under a new item entitled "Tribute to the outgoing Secretary-General".

On 4 December, the President of the Council briefed the press on the work programme of the Council for December.

Through the website of the Permanent Mission of Qatar (www.qatarmission.org), the presidency provided regular updates on the programme of work as well as on activities of the Council.

The First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar participated in the open thematic debate that the Council convened on 12 December.

Africa

Burundi

On 21 December, the Council heard a briefing by the Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB), Nureldin Satti. He described major developments in Burundi, including the status of implementation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement signed on 7 September by the Government of Burundi and Palipehutu-FNL. He also informed Council members of the termination of the mandate of ONUB on 31 December and the opening of a new United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB) to continue the process of peace consolidation and coordinate the activities of the United Nations system for an initial period of one year, commencing 1 January 2007. Furthermore, he informed the Council that the Peacebuilding Commission would allocate $25 million from the Peacebuilding Fund to Burundi to promote good governance, strengthen the rule of law and ensure community recovery. Council members continued to express concern about the fragility of the security and political situation in the country.

Also on 21 December, the Council held a private meeting with the troop-contributing countries to ONUB. The Council and the troop-contributing countries heard a briefing by the Acting Special Representative. A statement to the press was issued by the President of the Council.

Central African Republic

On 5 December, in consultations of the whole, the Council expressed concern over the recent deterioration of the security situation in the Central African Republic, aggravated by the ongoing rebellion in the north-eastern part and by instability along its borders with Chad and the Sudan.

Chad/Sudan

On 5 December, during consultations of the whole, the Council was briefed by the Director of the Africa Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Dmitry Titov, on the situation along the volatile Sudan-Chad border, which was exacerbated by the ongoing conflict in Darfur. The Council members expressed concern over the tension between Chad and the Sudan and urged the two States to abide fully by the obligations set out in the Tripoli Agreement of 8 February 2006 and subsequent agreements concluded between them.

On 15 December, in connection with the situation in Chad and the Sudan, the Council members expressed their grave concern regarding the military activities in eastern Chad and strongly condemned all attempts at destabilization by force. The worsening situation in Darfur and the continuing tension between Chad and the Sudan was a matter of concern. Consequently, the President of the Council issued a statement on behalf of the Council (S/PRST/2006/53).

Côte d'Ivoire

On 12 December, the Council met in private with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), and heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for UNOCI, Pierre Schori.

Also on 12 December, during consultations of the whole, the Special Representative presented to the Council members the eleventh progress report of the Secretary-General on UNOCI (S/2006/939). In addition, the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004) concerning Côte d'Ivoire, Ambassador Adamantios Th. Vassilakis (Greece), briefed the Council on the report of the Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire.

On 15 December, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1726 (2006), extending the mandate of UNOCI and the French forces that support it until 10 January 2007. At the next formal meeting, the Council members had before them the text of a draft resolution on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2006/982), which was unanimously adopted as resolution 1727 (2006). In that resolution, the Council renewed the sanctions imposed by resolutions 1572 (2004) and 1643 (2005) until 31 October 2007, and also extended the mandate of the Group of Experts for six months.

At a formal meeting, on 21 December, the President of the Council read out a statement on behalf of the Council (S/PRST/2006/58). In the statement, the

President, inter alia, reiterated the Council's full support for the International Working Group, recalling its role as guarantor and impartial arbiter of the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire; encouraged the Working Group to promote enhanced dialogue with all Ivorian parties to ensure adherence to the timeline for the road map; shared the concern of the Working Group at delays in the implementation of resolution 1721 (2006); and requested the Working Group to provide a detailed, updated timeline, by 1 February 2007 at the latest, for the implementation of the peace process.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 4 December, during consultations of the whole, the Council was briefed by the Director of the Africa Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, on the recent successful elections held in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In an exchange of views after the briefing, Council members praised the holding of the elections and underlined the positive attitude adopted by the key political actors after the announcement of the results of the presidential election. The Council members also underlined the need to provide international assistance in such areas as good governance, anti-corruption measures, developmental assistance and sustainable security sector reform. A draft presidential statement on the Democratic Republic of the Congo was submitted by France and Qatar.

On 6 December, at a formal meeting, the Council unanimously adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2006/50) in which it congratulated Joseph Kabila on his election in the first democratic elections to be held in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in more than 40 years. It also welcomed Jean-Pierre Bemba's commitment to continue to participate in politics within the framework of the institutions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

On 21 December, during consultations of the whole, the Council members discussed the text of a draft resolution submitted by France.

On 22 December, at a formal meeting, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1736 (2006), by which it, inter alia, authorized an increase in the military strength of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) from 1 January to 15 February 2007, when the Mission mandate was set to expire. Taking note of the Secretary-General's recommendations in his letter dated 15 November 2006 (S/2006/892), the Council members also looked forward to his proposals regarding the future mandate of MONUC as well as a review of its military strength.

Guinea-Bissau

On 15 December, during consultations of the whole, the Council members were briefed by the newly appointed Representative of the Secretary-General in Guinea-Bissau, Shola Omoregie, on recent developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the work of the United Nations Peacekeeping Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS).

On the same day, a statement to the press was issued by the President of the Council, in which he expressed the concern of Council members about the precarious political, security and economic conditions in Guinea-Bissau and their support for the activities of UNOGBIS.

Liberia

On 19 December, during consultations of the whole, the Council members discussed both the Liberia sanctions review and the activities of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) on the basis of documents S/2006/976 and S/2006/958, respectively. The Permanent Representative of Denmark and Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia, Ambassador Ellen Margrethe Løj, briefed the Council on the latest report of the Panel of Experts on Liberia.

On 20 December, the Council members, at a formal meeting, unanimously adopted resolution 1731 (2006).

Sierra Leone

On 15 December, during consultations of the whole, a draft resolution on the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL) was prepared and circulated by the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Council also had before it the third report of the Secretary-General on the Office (S/2006/922). In that report, the Secretary-General recommended that the Council approve the temporary increase of the military and police components of UNIOSIL by 5 and 10 officers respectively to assist in the presidential and parliamentary polls to be held in July 2007. The Secretary-General also called for a 12-month extension of its mandate, until the end of 2007.

On 22 December, during consultations of the whole, the Council members discussed the text of a draft resolution (S/2006/1012). Later, at a formal meeting, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1734 (2006), in which it extended the mandate of UNIOSIL until 31 December 2007. The Council also recommended an increase in the number of UNIOSIL personnel for a period from 1 January to 31 October 2007 to enhance the support provided by the Office for the presidential and parliamentary elections in Sierra Leone. After the vote, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made a statement. The representative of the Netherlands, in his capacity as Chair of the country-specific meetings of the Peacebuilding Commission on Sierra Leone, also made a statement.

Somalia

On 4 December, during consultations of the whole, the Council considered a draft resolution on Somalia (S/2006/940), which was adopted unanimously on 6 December as resolution 1725 (2006). In the resolution, which was sponsored by the Congo, Ghana, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United States of America, the Council urged both parties in Somalia to resume dialogue without delay and authorized a protection and training mission to protect those involved in the dialogue, to maintain and monitor security in Baidoa and to help re-establish national security forces. Following the vote, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, the Congo and the United Republic of Tanzania, and by the President of the Council in his capacity as the representative of Qatar.

On 22 December, during consultations of the whole, the Council members voiced their deep concern about the escalating fighting and deteriorating situation in Somalia, particularly the presence of foreign forces in the country. Subsequently, the

Council adopted a presidential statement on the situation in Somalia (S/PRST/2006/59), in which it called on all parties to draw back from conflict, recommit to dialogue and immediately implement resolution 1725 (2006).

On 26 December, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia, François Lonseny Fall, briefed the Council on the crisis in Somalia. He warned of possible regional consequences should the fighting between the Transitional Federal Government and the Union of Islamic Courts escalate. He urged a political settlement through negotiations and called on all foreign forces to leave Somalia. Subsequently, during consultations of the whole, the Council members considered the situation in Somalia against the backdrop of the current escalating fighting between Government forces and Union of Islamic Courts forces, the presence of Ethiopian troops and the adoption of resolution 1725 (2006). Until 27 December, the Council members exchanged views on a draft presidential statement presented by Qatar on the new developments in the situation in Somalia. Owing to the divergence of views among Council members, however, no presidential statement was issued.

Sudan

On 14 December, the Council, while considering the reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan, was briefed on the situation in the Sudan and Darfur by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Luis Moreno-Ocampo. In a private debate that followed the briefing, Council members exchanged views with the Prosecutor.

On 19 December, during consultations of the whole, the Council reaffirmed its deep concern about the worsening security situation in Darfur and its repercussions in the region. It also discussed a draft presidential statement on the situation in the Sudan, which was adopted (S/PRST/2006/55), calling for the immediate deployment of United Nations support packages to the African Union Mission in the Sudan and a hybrid operation in Darfur, with command and control structures and systems provided by the United Nations. In the statement, the Council also endorsed the conclusions of the high-level consultations held in Addis Ababa on 16 November 2006 on the situation in Darfur, as well as the communiqué of the 66th meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council held on 30 November in Abuja.

On 27 December, during consultations of the whole, the Council members were briefed by the Secretary-General. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ahmedou Ould-Abdullah and the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, also briefed Council members on their recent visit to the Sudan with the leadership in Khartoum, during which they had delivered a written message from the Secretary-General to President Omer Albashir.

The Council members deliberated on the current situation and the positive reaction of the President of the Sudan, as expressed in his letter of 23 December to the Secretary-General. The Council members expressed divergent views on the future outcome resulting from the consultations between the United Nations and the Government of the Sudan. Consequently, a statement to the press was issued, in which the members of the Council welcomed the outcome of the visit of the Special Representative to the Sudan and the commitment of the President of the Sudan to the implementation of the agreements reached in Addis Ababa and Abuja.

Great Lakes region

On 20 December, the Council discussed the situation in the Great Lakes region. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region, Ibrahima Fall and the First Executive Secretary of the International Great Lakes Conference secretariat, Liberata Mulamula, briefed the Council. Subsequently, the President of the Council made a statement on behalf of the Council (S/PRST/2006/57), in which the Council, inter alia, congratulated regional leaders on the signing of the pact on security, stability and development in the Great Lakes region and welcomed the decision to establish a regional follow-up mechanism to include a conference secretariat and establish its offices at Bujumbura. The Council also supported the extension of the mandate of the Special Representative until 31 March 2007. Moreover, the Council appealed for international assistance for the special fund for reconstruction and development in the region.

Asia

Afghanistan

On 7 December, the Council discussed the situation in Afghanistan on the basis of the report of the Security Council mission to Afghanistan (S/2006/935), which was conducted from 11 to 16 November 2006. The Council received a briefing by the Permanent Representative of Japan and Head of the mission, Kenzo Oshima. The report described both the achievements and the immense challenges facing the Government of Afghanistan. It also provided findings and recommendations, and commended the Government of Afghanistan, the international community and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan for their efforts. The Council heard statements by the representatives of Afghanistan, Finland, India and Canada, the State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Norway, Raymond Johansen, and the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan.

Fiji

On 6 December, during consultations of the whole, under other matters, the representative of Japan raised the topic of the military coup that had overthrown the Government of Fiji.

On 7 December, a statement to the press was issued by the Council, in which it called for the immediate reinstatement of the country's legitimate authority. It also expressed its grave concern and urged a peaceful settlement in accordance with the country's Constitution.

Nepal

On 1 December, during consultations of the whole, the Council was informed of a letter dated 22 November 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Council (S/2006/920) concerning the successful consolidation of a comprehensive peace agreement on 21 November 2006 by the Government of Nepal and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist). On the same day, the Council unanimously adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2006/49) welcoming the

agreement, and the commitment of both parties to transforming the existing ceasefire into a permanent peace. Moreover, the Council welcomed and expressed its support for the Secretary-General's intention to send a technical assessment mission to Nepal and to deploy an advance contingent of up to 35 monitors and 25 electoral personnel.

Europe

Cyprus

On 8 December, the Council held a meeting in private with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), at which they heard a briefing by Major General Rafael Jose Barni, Commander of UNFICYP. Subsequently, the Council held consultations of the whole to consider the report of the Secretary-General on UNFICYP (S/2006/931) and heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNFICYP, Michael Moller.

On 15 December, during consultations of the whole, the Council considered the text of a draft resolution (S/2006/978) submitted by China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Subsequently, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1728 (2006), by which it extended the mandate of UNFICYP until 15 June 2007 (as the current mandate expired on 15 December 2006). Before the vote, the representative of Greece made a statement.

Kosovo/Serbia

On 13 December, the Council considered, in debate, the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) (S/2006/906), which covered developments in Kosovo from 15 August to 31 October 2006. The Council heard a briefing on standards implementation by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNMIK, Joachim Rücker. The Prime Minister of Kosovo, Agim Çeku, attended as part of the UNMIK delegation. The Council also heard a statement by the President of the Coordination Centre of the Republic of Serbia for Kosovo and Metohija, Sanda Raskovic-Ivic. At the same meeting, the Council also heard statements by the representatives of Albania, Finland (on behalf of the European Union) and Ukraine.

Both the briefings and the exchange of views that followed highlighted the fact that the political situation in Kosovo was characterized by intensified focus on the future status process, which continued to be the dominating factor in the political life in Kosovo. The members of the Council expressed the need to maintain the momentum of the political process, and stated that their support, as well as that of key Member States, was essential.

Middle East

Iraq

On 5 December, during consultations of the whole, the Council was informed by the acting Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), Demetrius Perricos, on the work of the Commission.

On 11 December, the Council had before it the Secretary-General's report pursuant to paragraph 30 of resolution 1546 (2004) (S/2006/945), in which the Secretary-General provided an update on United Nations activities in Iraq since 1 September 2006. The Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq, Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, and the representative of the United States, Ambassador Jackie Wolcott Sanders, on behalf of the multinational force, on the security and humanitarian situation in Iraq.

On 15 December, the Council members noted the letter dated 4 December 2006 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq to the Secretary-General, in which he requested that $40 million of the balance in the UNMOVIC account be transferred to the account of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations. The Council members proposed that the $40 million be transferred to the Development Fund for Iraq in the light of the expressed intention of the Government of Iraq to purchase facilities near United Nations Headquarters and to renovate the current headquarters of the Mission and the residence of the Permanent Representative, taking into consideration that the residual balance in the UNMOVIC account should be sufficient to finance the Commission's activities at its present level.

Iraq/Kuwait

On 13 December, during consultations of the whole, the Secretary-General's High-level coordinator Yuli Vorontsov, presented to the Council the twenty-third report of the Secretary-General on compliance by Iraq with its obligations regarding the repatriation or return of all Kuwaiti or third-country nationals or their remains and on locating and returning the Kuwaiti national archives (S/2006/948). The Council expressed full support for his work and for his mission. A statement to the press on Iraq/Kuwait was issued by the President of the Council.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 4 December, during consultations of the whole, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed the Gaza ceasefire agreement and suggested that the President of the Council should make a statement to the press welcoming the agreement on behalf of the Council. On 6 December, the Council issued a statement to the press, in which it welcomed the agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority establishing a mutual ceasefire in Gaza. The Council welcomed the steps taken by both sides to maintain the ceasefire and expressed hope that it would lead to a period of sustained calm. The Council members called on both sides to avoid any action which could jeopardize further progress.

On 12 December, the Council held a thematic debate at the ministerial level on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, on the theme "sustainable peace in the Middle East". The First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabr Al-Thani, presided over the meeting. The comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Middle East and the peace process during the past 10 years was before the Council (S/2006/956).

During the debate, the Council heard a briefing by the Secretary-General, who opened the meeting. The President of the Council made a statement in his capacity as First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar. The Council also heard statements by the Permanent Observer of Palestine and the Permanent Representative of Israel. The Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania, Seif Ali Iddi; the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Aleksandr Saltanov; and the State Secretary of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Slovakia, Diana Strofova, participated in the debate with representatives of the other Council members.

The Secretary-General reported to the Council that tensions in the Middle East were near breaking point and that a final settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict had defeated the best efforts of several generations of world leaders. He warned that the region was in a profound crisis owing to deep mistrust between Israelis and Palestinians. He stated that the failure to achieve a just and comprehensive solution to the long-festering Arab-Israeli conflict remained the main underlying source of frustration and instability in the region. He called on both parties to recognize in each other the desire to resolve the conflict.

The First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar stated that the Middle East crisis entailed grave and negative consequences for the region and the world. He noted that the myriad international resolutions, projects, plans and positions were inadequate without the existence of intrinsic political will to achieve the common objectives that could serve the interests of all parties. He underlined the need to pursue a coordinated, integrated and consistent approach to resolving the Middle East conflict, noting that the Security Council did not accord the issue of Middle East peace with the same degree of seriousness and significance that it accorded to less important issues. Indeed, the protracted conflict would continue to have dire consequences for peace and stability.

On 12 December, subsequent to the thematic debate, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2006/51), in which it expressed, inter alia, its deep concern over the situation in the Middle East and its serious ramifications for peace and security, and underlined the need to intensify efforts to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region, based on all relevant Council resolutions. It also reaffirmed the vital role of the Quartet.

The situation in the Middle East (Lebanon)

On 7 December, during consultations of the whole, a draft presidential statement on the situation in the Middle East was considered as a response to the letter dated 1 December 2006 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Council (S/2006/933) containing a report on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006). On 11 December, during consultations of the whole, the Council considered

that report and heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and on progress in the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006).

On 12 December, the Council discussed the situation in the Middle East, with particular reference to Lebanon. Subsequently, the President made a statement on behalf of the Council (S/PRST/2006/52), in which, inter alia, he reiterated the full support of the Council for the legitimate and democratically elected Government of Lebanon and condemned any unlawful effort to destabilize it or intervene in Lebanon's internal affairs, called for the full implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) and reaffirmed the full support of the Council for the work of UNIFIL.

On 18 December, in a briefing, the Commissioner of the International Independent Investigation Commission, Serge Brammertz, presented to the Council his sixth report on the investigation into the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and 22 other victims. The Council also heard statements by the representatives of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. During the informal consultations that followed, the Commissioner reported on the Commission's continued priority work in the forensic investigation of the Hariri case, focusing on the identification of the perpetrators as well as the advancement of its technical assistance in 14 other cases. He also stated that the Commission had provided technical assistance to the Lebanese authorities in their investigation of the assassination on 21 November 2006 of the Lebanese Minister of Industry, Pierre Gemayel.

United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

On 13 December, the Council met in private with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) and heard a briefing by the Director of the Asia and Middle East Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Lisa Buttenheim.

On the same day, during consultations of the whole, the Council noted the report of the Secretary-General on UNDOF (S/2006/938) covering the period from 10 June to 1 December 2006.

On 15 December, during consultations of the whole, the President of the Council drew the attention of Council members to the text of the draft resolution contained in document S/2006/973. On the same day, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1729 (2006), in which it renewed the mandate of UNDOF until 30 June 2007, and requested the Secretary-General to submit, at the end of the period, a report on the situation and progress in the implementation of resolution 338 (1973). Furthermore, the President made a statement on behalf of the Council (S/PRST/2006/54) highlighting the need for a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem.

Other issues

Non-proliferation/Islamic Republic of Iran

On 11 December, the representatives of France, Germany and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland circulated a draft resolution on the nuclear activities of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On 19 December, during consultations of the whole, the representative of the United Kingdom circulated a revised version of the draft resolution.

On 20 December, during consultations of the whole, the representatives of France and the United Kingdom circulated a further revision of the draft resolution.

On 23 December, the President of the Council drew attention to the text of the draft resolution contained in document S/2006/1010, submitted by France, Germany and the United Kingdom. Before the vote, statements were made by the representatives of the Russian Federation, the United States of America and the President of the Council, speaking in his capacity as representative of Qatar. The Council unanimously adopted resolution 1737 (2006), imposing sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran for proliferation-sensitive nuclear activities in the light of that country's continued failure to comply with its obligations under relevant Council resolutions and to meet the requirements of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The Council also established a committee of the Security Council in this regard. By its resolution, the Council decided that the Islamic Republic of Iran should, without further delay, suspend all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, including research and development and work on all heavy-water related projects. After the adoption of the resolution, the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France, Japan, China, the United Republic of Tanzania and Argentina made statements in explanation of the vote. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran also made a statement.

Tribute to Secretary-General Kofi Annan

On 22 December, the Council adopted by acclamation resolution 1733 (2006) in a tribute to the outgoing Secretary-General, Kofi Annan. The Council recognized the central role that Mr. Annan had played in guiding the Organization in the discharge of his responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations. The Council also recognized his sustained efforts towards finding just and lasting solutions to various disputes and conflicts around the globe, and commended the reforms that he had initiated as well as the many proposals he had made on the restructuring and strengthening of the role and functioning of the United Nations system. Following the vote, Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser of Qatar, on behalf of Council members, expressed his deep appreciation for Mr. Annan.

Subsequently, in his final address to the Council, Mr. Annan observed that the Council's work had been strengthened over the past decade, garnering more coherence and more robust mandates to the Secretariat, thus ensuring vigorous follow-up decisions, enhanced mandates and necessary resources. Noting that many conflicts hade been peacefully resolved, he said that the ongoing tensions in the Middle East and the humanitarian suffering in Darfur were two examples of continuing crises. Nevertheless, the Secretary-General singled out Sierra Leone as both a success story and a good example of joint collaboration and achievement between the United Nations and its Member States.

General issues relating to sanctions

On 19 December, the Council considered general issues relating to sanctions on the basis of a draft resolution submitted by Argentina, Denmark, France, Greece, Japan, Peru, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain

and Northern Ireland and the United States of America (S/2006/996). The Council unanimously adopted resolution 1730 (2006), by which it committed itself to ensuring that fair and clear procedures exist for placing individuals and entities on sanctions lists and for removing them, as well as for granting humanitarian exemptions, and called upon the Secretary-General to establish a focal point within the Secretariat for receiving de-listing requests.

On 21 December, during consultations of the whole, the President drew the attention of the Council members to the text of a draft resolution contained in document S/2006/1004. Afterwards, at a formal meeting, the President drew the attention of the Council members to the report of the Informal Working Group on General Issues of Sanctions (S/2006/997). The Council unanimously adopted resolution 1732 (2006) by which it, inter alia, welcomed the report of the Working Group and decided that it had fulfilled its mandate to develop general recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness of United Nations sanctions. It took note of the best practices and methods contained in the report of the Working Group and requested the subsidiary bodies of the Security Council to take note also.

Protection of civilians in armed conflict

On 4 December, in an open debate, the Council was briefed by the outgoing Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Jan Egeland, on the protection of civilians in armed conflict. He briefed the Council on the current situation of civilians in a range of conflicts and urged it to ensure that appropriate and adequate resources were available to peacekeeping missions. The members of the Council expressed their gratitude and appreciation to him for his work. The President of the Council then read out a statement to the press deploring attacks on civilians during armed conflict.

On 4 December, the representatives of Denmark, France, Greece, Slovakia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland expressed their intention to submit a draft resolution on the protection of journalists in armed conflict.

On 23 December, during consultations of the whole, the Council members considered the text of a draft resolution (S/2006/1023). On the same day, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1738 (2006), by which it condemned intentional attacks against journalists, media professionals and associated personnel in situations of armed conflict and called upon all parties to put an end to such practices and comply with their obligations under international law to protect civilians in armed conflicts. It also, inter alia, affirmed that it would address the issue of the protection of journalists in armed conflict strictly under the item entitled "Protection of civilians in armed conflict".

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

On 20 December, during consultations of the whole, the Council discussed a letter dated 18 December 2006 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Council (S/2006/989). During the discussion, the Council undertook a comprehensive review of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, based on a report prepared by the Committee, with the participation of the Committee Chairman and the Executive Director of the Directorate. Subsequently, the President made a statement on behalf of the Council

(S/PRST/2006/56), in which he reaffirmed the Council's firm stance against terrorism and called upon all States to combat it, stressing the importance of resolution 1373 (2001) and the importance of cross-United Nations cooperation in counter-terrorism. The statement included the outcome of the Council's review of the Directorate.

On 22 December, during consultations of the whole, the President drew the attention of the Council members to a draft resolution submitted by Argentina, Denmark, France, Greece, Japan, Peru, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United States of America (S/2006/1013). Subsequently, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1735 (2006), by which it enhanced the identification of terrorists by tightening its listing and de-listing procedures and urged States to redouble their efforts to freeze the funds of terrorists, prevent their entry into or transit through their territories and ban the supply to them of weapons or ammunition. The Council decided that the Committee should continue to develop, adopt and apply guidelines regarding de-listing and should review its guidelines with respect to exemption requests. After the adoption of the resolution, the representative of Qatar made a statement.

Draft report of the Security Council to the General Assembly

On 6 December, the Council considered its draft report to the General Assembly for the period from 1 August 2005 to 31 July 2006, required under Articles 15 and 24 of the Charter of the United Nations. It also heard an explanatory statement by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Tuliameni Kalomoh. The draft report was unanimously adopted by the Council, which was reflected in a note by the President of the Council (S/2006/942).

International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia/International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

On 15 December, the Council held a debate, in which it considered the work of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. The Council was briefed by the President of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, Judge Fausto Pocar; the Prosecutor of the Court, Carla Del Ponte; the President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Judge Erik Møse; and the Prosecutor of the Court, Hassan Bubacar Jallow. The Council members engaged in an exchange of views with them. The Council also heard statements by the Minister for Public Administration and Local Self-Government of Serbia and by the representatives of Rwanda and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Subsidiary bodies of the Security Council

On 20 December, the Council heard briefings by the Chairmen of the subsidiary bodies of the Security Council: César Mayoral, Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 918 (1994) concerning Rwanda and of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities; Ellen Margrethe Løj, Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism and of the Committee established pursuant to

resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia; Adamantios Th. Vassilakis, Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004) concerning Côte d'Ivoire, of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan, and of the Informal Working Group on General Issues of Sanctions; Kenzo Oshima, Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1636 (2005), of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions, and of the Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations; and Tuvako N. Manongi, speaking on behalf of the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone.

Appendix

Resolutions

Date	*S/Res/...*	*Item*	*Meeting number*	*Draft date*	*Sponsors*
6 December	1725 (2006)	The situation in Somalia	5579	6 December	Congo, Ghana, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America
15 December	1726 (2006)	The situation in Côte d'Ivoire: eleventh progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2006/939)	5591	14 December	President
15 December	1727 (2006)	The situation in Côte d'Ivoire: letter dated 8 December 2006 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004) concerning Côte d'Ivoire addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2006/964)	5592	14 December	President
15 December	1728 (2006)	The situation in Cyprus: report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Cyprus (S/2006/931)	5593	14 December	China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America
15 December	1729 (2006)	The situation in the Middle East	5596	13 December	President
19 December	1730 (2006)	General issues relating to sanctions	5599	19 December	Argentina, Denmark, France, Greece, Japan, Peru, Russian Federation, Slovakia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Date	*S/Res/...*	*Item*	*Meeting number*	*Draft date*	*Sponsors*
20 December	1731 (2006)	The situation in Liberia: letter dated 13 December 2006 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2006/976)	5602	19 December	President
21 December	1732 (2006)	General issues relating to sanctions	5605	21 December	President
22 December	1733 (2006)	Tribute to the outgoing Secretary-General	5607	20 December	President
22 December	1734 (2006)	The situation in Sierra Leone: third report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (S/2006/922)	5608	21 December	President
22 December	1735 (2006)	Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts	5609	21 December	Argentina, Denmark, France, Greece, Japan, Peru, Russian Federation, Slovakia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America
22 December	1736 (2006)	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	5610	21 December	France
23 December	1737 (2006)	Non-proliferation	5612	23 December	France, Germany, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
23 December	1738 (2006)	Protection of civilians in armed conflict	5613	22 December	President

Statements by the President

Date	*S/PRST/2006/...*	*Item*	*Meeting number*
1 December	49	Letter dated 22 November 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2006/920)	5576
6 December	50	The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo	5580
12 December	51	The situation in the Middle East: report of the Secretary-General on the Middle East	5584
12 December	52	The situation in the Middle East: letter dated 1 December 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2006/933)	5586
15 December	53	The situation in Chad and the Sudan	5595
15 December	54	The situation in the Middle East: report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (S/2006/938)	5596
19 December	55	Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan	5598
20 December	56	Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts	5600
20 December	57	The situation in the Great Lakes region	5603
21 December	58	The situation in Côte d'Ivoire	5606
22 December	59	The situation in Somalia	5611

Notes by the President

Date	*S/2006/...*	*Item*	*Meeting number*
7 December	942	Adoption of the draft report of the Security Council to the General Assembly	5578

Statements to the press

Date	*SC*	*Item*
4 December	8885	Protection of civilians in armed conflict
6 December	8889	Situation in the Middle East
7 December	8894	Fiji
13 December	8899	Iraq-Kuwait
15 December	8910	Guinea-Bissau
21 December	8921	Burundi
27 December	8931	Sudan